(c) by when the construction of the project is to start and is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) India is pursuing import of natural gas Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. Two Secretay level Joint Working Groups namely India-Pakistan Joint Working Group and India-Iran Special Joint Working Group have been constituted for discussing the various issues involved. Four India-Pakistan JWD meetings and three India and Iran Special JWG meetings have been held so far. Subsequently, the issues are being discussed in the trilateral Iran-Pakistan-India Joint Working Group meetings. Four Iran-Pakistan-India Tripartite meetings have been held. The 4th Tripartite Meeting of the JWG was held at Tehran on 24th & 25th January, 2007. In the above meeting, the final report of the consultant was discussed. The gas price formulation at the Iran-Pakistan border was agreed between Iran and Pakistan, subject to approval by their respective Governments. India was required to indicate acceptance in four weeks time. Suitable communication has been sent to Iran on 28.2.2007.

The 4th bilateral JWG Meeting between India and Pakistan was held at Islamabad on 22nd & 23rd February, 2007 to finalise the transportation cost and transit tariff within Pakistan. The technical subgroup meeting between Pakistan and India was held at New Delhi on 22nd & 23rd March, 2007. Discussions were held on the technical issues, Transit Fee & Transportation Cost. It was decided to hold the JWG meeting to continue the discussions.

Construction of the project would start only after resolution of various contentious issues involved for which discussions amongst the Iran, Pakistan and India are continuing. It would take about 30—36 months for completion of the project after financial closure.

Allocation of SKO to Gujarat

3626. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government wants to consider the demand for enhancement in allocation of kerosene (SKO) made by Gujarat;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) In veiw of requests received from various State Governments including Gujarat for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned a detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. NCAER submitted its report in October 2005. NCAER has *inter-alia* recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. Also, Dr. Rangarajan Committee constituted by the Government to formulate a long-term pricing policy of petroleum products has also recommended to restrict PDS SKO subsidy to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided "in principle" that subsidy on PDS Kerosene may be restricted to BPL families only. The proposal to work out the modalities to implement this decision and for rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene among States/UTs is under the consideration of the Government.

Gas in KG Basin

3627. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the chronological details of gas discovery and declaration of gas availability by ONGC, Reliance and others in KG Basin; and

(b) the tentative dates of gas availability committed by above concerns at the time of discovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEM AND NATURAL GAS SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The chronological details of gas discoveries in KG Basin in given in the Statement (*See* below). These gas discoveries are at various stages of appraisal/ development. The availability of gas depends on its commerciality and implementation of its development plan.

The development plans of D1 and D3 discoveries of RIL have been fanalised. The commercial production of gas is likely to commence from June, 2008 with peak production @ 80 MMSCMD.